

STATE OF IDAHO  
Department of Fish and Game

Joseph C. Greenley, Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report  
CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF  
SPRING CHINOOK STOCKS

Project No. 88E25032

Contract No. 03-6-208-35443

Period Covered: January 1 to March 31, 1977

Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

April, 1977

## Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook Stocks

### ABSTRACT

Channel tenders were doing adequately at Crooked River and Indian Creek incubation channels. However, the Red River channel froze dry resulting in the loss of all eggs and fry.

Smolt releases were started late in March and continued through early April. The releases will be reported upon next quarter.

The 500,000 fry being reared at Mullan Hatchery are progressing well and will be utilized during late spring.

#### Observing Success of Egg Hatching

A trip by snowmobile was taken each month of the quarter into Indian Creek incubation channel. The tender that is stationed there all winter is doing an excellent job and alevins were found in all portions of the channel. The channel was in as good condition throughout the quarter as I have ever observed. Ice completely covered the channel most of the quarter with good flows though the gravel. The tender, who has stayed by herself all winter, has remained in good spirits and has had no physical or psychological problems. She is an excellent employee.

Snow depths in the Magruder area are very disturbing with a maximum of only two and one-half feet observed on Nez Perce Pass any time during the quarter. Unless greatly increased precipitation occurs before fall, there is a possibility a large portion of the available spawning gravels may be out of water and unavailable to returning adults.

Several vehicle trips were made to Crooked River incubation channel for observation of conditions. The tender lives next to the channel and does a very good job of maintaining the flows. Alevins were present during the quarter and I expect no problems until high spring flows.

During an inspection of the Red River incubation channel on January 25, I found that the channel had completely frozen dry.

#### Smolt Releases and Mullan Hatchery Fry

Smolt releases from Rapid River Hatchery into the South Fork Clearwater River started the last of March and continued through early April into the Lochsa River from the Sandpoint Hatchery. A complete report will be included in the next quarterly report.

Mullan Hatchery is rearing 500,000 chinook to feeding fry. The survival from eyed eggs appears very good and these fish will be placed in various locations in the upper Lochsa River system about the end of June.

Submitted by:

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